

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 and 54-66 are pending, and claims 1, 54, 61, and 66 are in independent form. Claims 1, 54, 61, and 66 have been amended to improve clarity. Claims 67-83 have been added. The new claims are method claims containing subject matter substantially similar to pending claims 61, 5-17, 55, and 57, respectively. Paragraph [0018] of the specification is amended to fix a typographical error. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in light of the following remarks.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-14, 16-17, and 54-66 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,980,817 (“Chow”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,577,834 (“Traversat”), in further view of U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2004/0087300 (“Lewis”).

Claim 15 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over the combined teachings of Chow, Traversat, and Lewis, and in further view of U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2004/0058652 (“McGregor”).

Reconsideration is respectfully requested in light of the following remarks.

Claim 1

Claim 1 recites a provisioning system that is in communication with an external system and a service provider, wherein the service provider is operable to communicate with the entity to which a provisioning event pertains in response to receiving the provisioning request message from the provisioning system. In rejecting claim 1, the Office cites to col. 2, lines 47-65, col. 13, line 52-col. 14, line 6, and col. 10, lines 28-36 of Chow as teaching this feature. It is respectfully submitted that the service provider does not communicate with the entity in response to receiving the provisioning request from the provisioning system in the cited portions of Chow. Instead, the service provider communicates with the entity in response to the entity initiating an activation request (e.g., “The user initiates their service by activating their phone over-the-air when they first communicate from their selected home neighborhood zone.” Col. 2, lines 55-57; “The unique bit sequence and PIN in combination will be given to the new subscriber so the subscriber may actuate their LCS service automatically via a self-activating and authenticating process to be referred to herein as over-the-air activation teleservice (OATS).” Col. 14, lines 49-54).

The three portions of Chow cited by the Office fail to show a service provider communicating with the entity to which a provisioning event pertains in response to receiving the provisioning request from the provisioning system. Two of those portions, col. 2 and cols. 13-14, disclose communications between a service provider and a customer being initiated by a customer accessing the over-the-air activation teleservice. The portion at col. 10 describes a customer communicating with a call center and does not describe communications between a service provider and an entity at all. Because none of the cited portions of Chow teach or suggest the claimed feature, and the Office makes no allegations of such a teaching in any of the other references cited, it is respectfully requested that the § 103 rejection of claim 1 be withdrawn.

With further regard to claim 1, claim 1 recites that the provisioning events include obtaining status information regarding a service. In rejecting claim 1, the Office cites to column 8, lines 61-64 and col. 14, lines 9-21 as teaching this feature. Col. 8, lines 61-64 describes data that may be stored regarding a subscriber (*e.g.*, subscribers profile, service subscription, service preferences, and priorities). Col. 14, lines 9-21 describes a customer service representative asking the subscriber for data to complete their personal or subscriber profiles. Neither of these portions describes a provisioning event of obtaining status information regarding a service (*e.g.*, service deactivated, service deactivated after modification, service suspended, service activated, and other examples listed in paragraph [0032] of the present application). Instead, these portions of Chow describe data associated with a subscriber. Because the cited portions of Chow fail to teach or suggest a provisioning event of obtaining status information regarding a service, and the Office makes no allegation of such a teaching in any of the other references cited, it is respectfully requested that the § 103 rejection of claim 1 be withdrawn.

A similar feature is recited in claims 54, 61, and 67. It is respectfully requested that the § 103 rejections of claims 54 and 61 be withdrawn for similar reasoning as offered above for claim 1.

Claims 16, 61, and 66

Claims 16, 61, and 66 include features related to the one-to-many relationships between a single provisioning request and provisioning entities or provisioning data items. These one-to-many relationships are shown at FIG. 2 at 210 and 216, shown below:

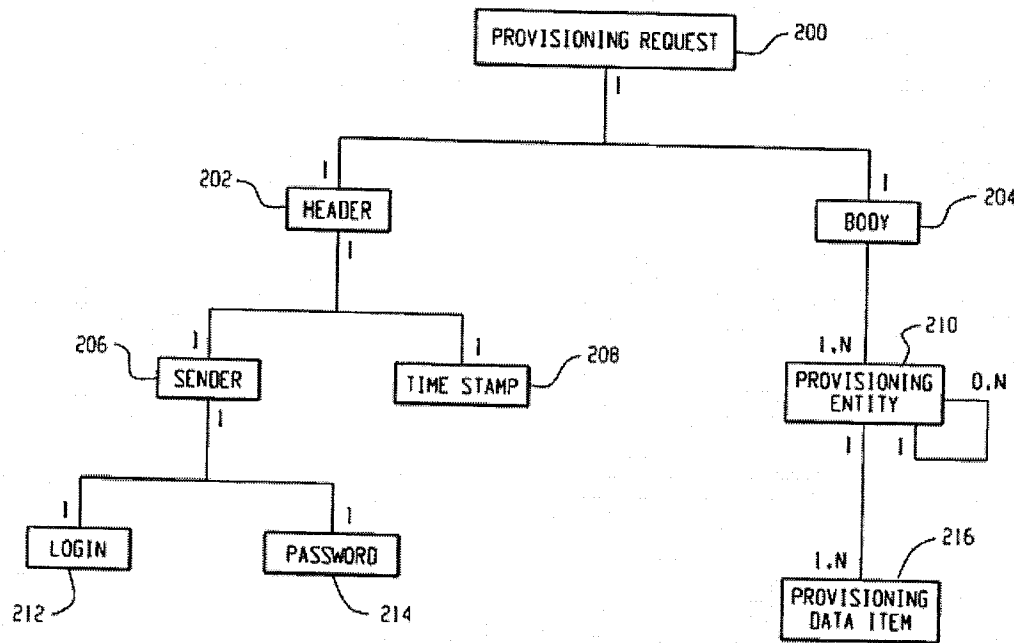


Fig. 2

It is respectfully submitted that none of the disclosures cited by the Office as teaching these features in rejecting claims 16, 61, or 66 teach or suggest these features. In rejecting claim 16, the Office cites to paragraphs [0172] and [0173] of Lewis. This portion of Lewis is not at all concerned with provisioning requests. This portion of Lewis simply describes a routing module (RAVE) forwarding a message to all entities on a distribution list when the message is addressed to the distribution list. A generic message sent to a distribution list is clearly not a provisioning request message for triggering a provisioning event in service provider. Because this portion of Lewis does not teach the feature of claim 16, it is respectfully requested that the § 103 rejection of claim 16 be withdrawn.

In rejecting claim 61, the Office does not address the provisioning request message being capable of specifying a request to provisioning entities on multiple systems using multiple schemes for identifying an entity. The Office cites to the rationale of claim 1 in rejecting claim

61. However, claim 1 does not recite this feature. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the § 103 rejection of claim 61 be withdrawn.

In rejecting claim 66, the Office cites to FIGS. 35a and 35b of Traversat as teaching the provisioning request that is capable of specifying a request to provision entities on multiple systems using multiple schemes for identifying an entity. The cited figures show diagrams illustrating embodiments where a virtual machine includes extensions for compiling objects into XML representations of the objects and for decompiling XML representations of objects into objects. Col. 68, lines 49-53. There is no description of the one-to-many relationship described in claim 66 where a single provisioning request message specifies a request to provision entities on multiple systems, as shown in FIG. 2 at 210 of the application at issue. Because the cited portion of Traversat fails to teach or suggest this claim feature, it is respectfully requested that the § 103 rejection of claim 66 be withdrawn.

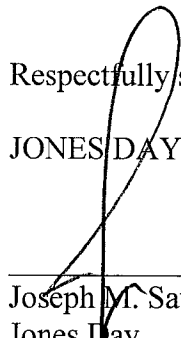
It is noted that the applicant has not provided arguments with respect to the dependent claims in the instant application. This is done without prejudice to the applicant's right to present such arguments at any point in the future. In addition, because each of the dependent claims depends from an independent claim that is itself allowable, the dependent claims are allowable for at least the same reasons as are the independent claims.

CONCLUSION

For at least the reasons set forth above, the pending claims are allowable. The examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejections and pass this case to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

JONES DAY



Joseph M. Sauer (Reg. No. 47,919)
Jones Day
North Point, 901 Lakeside Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio 44114
(216) 586-7506